

Chapman's 'The Economic Value of Birds to the State.'—By request of the New York State Forest, Fish, and Game Commission, Mr. Chapman has prepared a paper on 'The Economic Value of Birds to the State,'¹ of which advance copies have just been received. It forms a part of the Annual Report of the Commission for the year 1902, and consists of nearly seventy pages of text and twelve colored plates by Fuertes, drawn especially for the work, and effectively reproduced by Hoen & Company of Baltimore. They form one of the most beautiful series of bird plates yet published. The drawings are at Fuertes's best, and the reproduction merits high praise. The twelve plates illustrate twenty-four species of our common land birds, the leading types, from Hawks to Thrushes.

The text is well worthy of the beautiful plates. Although, as the case necessarily requires, the paper is largely a compilation, the selections are judiciously made, as regards sources of information and choice of matter, which is largely from special bulletins and reports on the food habits of birds published by the Biological Survey, under the auspices of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The first twenty pages are devoted to a general discussion of the economic value of birds to the forester, the fruit-grower, the farmer, and the citizen, being a statement of 'What the bird does for the State,' followed by 'What the State does for the Bird,' and 'What the State should do for the Bird.' This is succeeded by 'Statistics of Food Habits' (pp. 23-63), in which the leading groups, and certain of the species, of land birds are treated in systematic sequence; and to this is added a bibliography of about seventy-five titles, listing the more important papers relating to the food of American birds.

The attitude of the author on the question of 'The Bird and the State' may be indicated by the following extract from his opening paragraph: "The bird is the property of the State. From this fundamental conception of the bird's legal status there can be no logical ground for dissent. If a certain species of bird is conclusively proven to be injurious to the agricultural or other interests of the State, no one would deny the State's right to destroy that species. If, on the contrary, a species is shown to be beneficial, then the State has a right to protect it. Indeed, we may go further and say it is not only the right, but the duty of the State to give its birds the treatment they deserve."

Mr. Chapman's paper is an excellent compendium of our present knowledge of the economic relations of our birds, and the New York State Forest, Fish, and Game Commission has shown an intelligent conception of its duties and functions in placing before the public so important a memoir in such an attractive form. — J. A. A.

¹State of New York | Forest, Fish and Game Commission | — | The Economic Value of Birds | to the State | By | Frank M. Chapman | Associate Curator of Mammalogy and Ornithology in the American | Museum of Natural History | [Seal] Albany | J. B. Lyon Company, Printers | 1903 — 4to, pp. 1-66, 12 colored plates. September, 1903.